

BELLERIVE ACRES NEWSLETTER

City of Bellerive, Missouri

August 2016

No. 2016.2

www.BelleriveAcresMO.gov

Ann Knapp, Mayor
Mike Jones, Alderman
Tom Kiely, Alderman
James D. Kirtland, Alderman
William (Bill) McCrary, Alderman

Matt Lauer, City Administrator
Cell: 314-954-4170

colmatt131@aol.com

Stacey Fields, City Clerk

314-932-3196

sfields@cityofnormandy.gov

Nancy Hartman, Newsletter Editor

314-381-8893, nancyhartman2@charter.net

NORMANDY POLICE

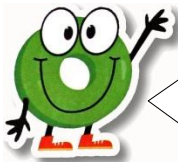
Emergency—911 Dispatch—427-8000

Normandy Police Department—385-3300, "1" for the police department.

Tips Line—385-3300 extension 3099

City of Normandy website—www.cityofnormandy.gov
(site has links to the Police Department)

Normandy Police Department Facebook & Twitter Pages



*Please attend our Aug.
25 Board Meeting—
we need to hear from
YOU!*

From the Mayor

By Ann Knapp, Mayor

Cell- 314-607-2762

E-mail- aknapp1@yahoo.com

Hello Neighbors,


It is so hard to believe summer is almost over! Bellerive is looking beautiful, our islands are in great condition, entrance awesome! Thank you Ron and Mike!

Gate Committee. Since our last newsletter Don Morice has volunteered to chair a committee to research the gate and security issues. He should have some recommendations for us to consider by our next board meeting. Thank you Don!

Street Work. I want to thank Bill McCrary, Mike Jones and Matt Lauer for handling the patching and sealing of our streets. This repair should give us several years to consider what we need to do next! This was a big project and took a lot of organization from our committee! Thanks for a great and completed job.

Bird Sanctuary. I also want to thank Nancy Hartman and Tom Hohenstein for their interest in protecting the Bird Sanctuary. We have met with several community foresters and are in the process of getting a bid from a recommended contractor! We definitely have a honeysuckle problem and hope with help from grants and help from Bellerive we can start to combat it!

Board of Aldermen. Our next board meeting is August 25th. Please try to attend with any ideas or questions! We look forward to more participation this year!

Enjoy the rest of summer! See you at the picnic—see below for the new date! 

NOTE Important Date Changes!



Fall Picnic – has been changed to Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 25.**

Fall Cleanup – has been changed to Saturday, **OCTOBER 8.**

WATCH FOR YOUR FLIERS!

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What's Popular on www.BelleriveAcresMO.gov?

By Justin Kolker, Webmaster

For any webmaster, part of the job is looking at and understanding the web analytics. Web Analytics is a set of information about the audience that visits the websites and what information on the website is popular. This information has a number of uses, everything from audience tuning on messages, to search engine optimization. Looking at the historical data on the website, The following are the top visited website features:

- Contact Us
- Meeting Minutes & Agendas
- Photo Gallery
- Bellerive Acres Business Directory
- Bellerive City Ordinances

Looking at this list tells us a number of things. First it is very important that we make it easy to get to these areas. Second, these areas should be accessible from the home page in what we call the "default view zone". Finally, the information on these pages should be kept as clean and concise as possible because they are likely to show up in search results. I hope that this has been an informative look at the world behind the Bellerive acres website. If there are any questions, concerns or improvement suggestions, please feel free to contact the webmaster at

webmaster@belleriveacres.com – Justin Kolker



Bellerive Acres Community Association (BACA) News

By Jennifer Lauer

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Thank you to all that attended our Community Night on June 18th. We missed our neighbors that were unable to attend the event. The evening was a wonderful success and Mary Habel (#73) was a spectacular hostess. We had approximately 50 residents attend the event. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful landscaping, food and socializing with our neighbors.

Our next community event is our Fall Family Picnic on September 25, 2016.

This will be held at Floyd's Island and is a great time for families and neighbors to bar-b-q, socialize and enjoy our beautiful



community island. Flyers with more information will be delivered closer to the event date.

On October 8, we will have our fall cleanup. The fall cleanup is an opportunity for all of us to help prepare the Acres for winter. Dead flowers and debris is cleared to allow for spring growth. Please consider joining us for the fall cleanup. All help is welcome.



Thank you to all members of our neighborhood that work hard to support our beautiful community. If you are not a member of BACA, but are interested in joining, please contact any of the officers for program information. BACA meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at a member's home. Our next meeting is Monday September 19 at Dierberg's School of Cooking. Enjoy the rest of summer!!!

Jennifer Lauer (#85), President, 683-8330

Angela McCrary (#87), Vice President, 348-8128

Sara Greiman (#68), Secretary, 749-4636

Rebecca Jones (#71), Treasurer, 385-0120



Vehicle Safety Tips

By the Men and Women of the Normandy Police Department and Chief Frank A. Mininni

All auto break-ins usually have one thing in common: there's something left in the car worth stealing. Most larcenies from cars are "crimes of opportunity" that could be prevented by taking some preventative steps. The Normandy Police department recommends the following:

Don't leave valuables in your vehicle: You'd be surprised how often this happens, but individuals leave valuable items in plain sight all the time. If you leave items in your vehicle and they're visible, the chances your vehicle will get broken into increase greatly. Also avoid leaving packages or shopping bags out in the open.

Place items out of sight BEFORE reaching your destination: Someone may be watching when you put your valuables under a seat or in the trunk and the moment you're gone, a thief could break into your car. So place those items in a safe place before you get to the park, beach, baseball game, etc. Valuable items that thieves target are GPS units, MP3 players, credit cards, money, packages and so forth. If you can't take the items with you, secure them in a safe place in your vehicle, like a locked glove compartment or your trunk.

Never open a trunk, fill it full of valuables, close it, and then just walk away.

Lock ALL of your vehicle's doors: This is true even if you plan on only being gone for "just a second". Remember, it only takes seconds to steal items from your car. It's not uncommon for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles, looking for unlocked doors. Also, make sure car windows aren't left open.

Park in busy, well-lit areas: Pick a parking spot where there is a lot of activity. Auto thieves prefer breaking into cars in isolated areas.

Don't leave a trace: Don't leave any sign that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle. For example: the suction cup on your dashboard might tell thieves that you have a GPS system in your vehicle. Leave nothing in plain view. Very few

auto break-ins are "random". The thieves usually see something out in the open or hints of possible hidden valuables.

Alarms or anti-theft devices work: Thieves are usually looking for the "easiest" target. If your car has an alarm, it could act as a deterrent. But don't make this common mistake: Just because you have an alarm, doesn't mean thieves won't break-in, **IF** you leave valuable items in plain sight.

Don't leave spare keys in your vehicle: An experienced thief knows all the hiding places. Store spare keys elsewhere, possibly your wallet or purse.



Prevent your satellite navigation system from being taken: One of the "hottest" items that thieves are targeting both locally and nationally is the GPS system in your vehicle. It's very simple. Police say: "If you leave a GPS system in your car, the chances are it will be stolen". Here are few tips: Take the whole unit out of your vehicle including the mounting bracket. Don't leave your vehicle unattended with the GPS system in plain sight. Wipe the windscreen so that the suction marks left from the system are wiped away.

Don't leave your driver's license or title in the vehicle.

Keep a record of the VIN number, license plate number, and insurance information in your wallet or purse.

Install a vehicle tracking and location system that can be activated after the vehicle is reported as stolen.

If your vehicle is stolen or property is taken from the vehicle there are number of things you can and should do:

Call police immediately. Provide a complete description of the items taken. Also provide license plate number, make and model of vehicle, year and color, plus VIN number and insurance company. Etch your driver's license number on all removable valuable items, such as audio equipment. 🍁🍁🍁

THE “BIRD SANCTUARY” – WILDLIFE

By Tom Hohenstein

In the May edition of our periodic newsletter, I wrote about the history and the natural features of the bird sanctuary which surrounds much of the western and northern perimeter of Bellerive Acres. In this edition I write about the various creatures which call it home, or at least pass through from time to time.

Most of the animals in the sanctuary are not confined there, but regularly make their way into the City. We, of course, have raccoons, opossums and ground hogs (gophers) – each a common form of urban wildlife. We also have less common forms of urban wildlife which I am sure many of you have still seen from time to time. These include red foxes and turkeys, neither of which appears to be permanent “residents” of the sanctuary given the relative infrequency of sightings. But foxes were again sighted this year by members of my family and I suspect many of you saw the “tom” turkey courting a hen throughout the City this past spring. Less common are coyotes and white tail deer - but even they have passed through the sanctuary from time to time (I ran into a family of coyotes in the sanctuary about two years ago and last year my family saw a deer in our front yard). Both the three toed and ornate box turtles can be found in the sanctuary (and in your yards at times), as well as various snakes, including the common garter snake, a “ring necked” snake and several I can’t identify.

Of course there are many birds in the bird sanctuary, most of which are commonly seen throughout the area. We do have one or more nesting pairs of great horned owls - the largest in the owl family. They are often heard and seen in your yards at night, but they nest in the bird sanctuary. In my frequent walks through the sanctuary, more often than not I will disturb one or more and watch them move from roost to roost. From time to time we have also seen a large white cooper’s hawk, which I believe also makes its home in the sanctuary. I have also often come across ducks in deeper portions of the creek.

You will find other forms of wildlife *only* in the sanctuary, particularly those which live in the two

creeks I described in my first article. There are crayfish and frogs in widely-fluctuating numbers. Sometimes they are common and other times they are hard to find or not seen at all. In many of the “pools” we have various species of fish, both minnows and larger fish which I take to be bluegill and even small bass of some sort.

The most remarkable critters, in my view, were the families of beaver we had had on at least two occasions here. I first noticed their presence about ten years ago in the portion of the creek behind #37 along the border with the university. I never saw the beaver, but several trees were cut down; within a week or two it had disappeared. Floyd told me someone from the County or State had trapped it to remove it (and, not long after, I stumbled across an untended trap along the bank of the creek which had snagged a raccoon). More recently, starting in approximately 2011, the beavers set up a permanent presence on the northern part of the sanctuary and built three dams over a period of three years, cutting down trees along the bank. Although beavers are largely nocturnal, on two occasions I came across juveniles playing behind one of the dams. After a very heavy rainfall in April 2013, the three dams were washed away and I have seen no trace of any beaver since then. But their legacy remains in the form of cut tree stumps and new growth along the creek banks they inhabited.

I think it remarkable that although we live in an inner suburb, we still have many of the types of wildlife associated with the more rural areas of our state. I’m sure many of these species (such as the deer, fox, turkey, coyote and beaver) did not inhabit the bird sanctuary until relatively recent times as all forms of wildlife in urban environments have become more common. But the suitability of the bird sanctuary as a habitat for wildlife is increasingly threatened by the unchecked spread of invasive honeysuckle, which now covers much of the sanctuary and destroys the diversity of plants in the woods themselves and also potentially affects the diversity of wildlife. This threat will be the subject of my third and final article.



The Bellerive Acres Gate Committee wants to hear from you!

By Linda Paunicka

The Board of Aldermen has formed a committee to study whether or not to have an entrance gate. So far, we've met with the Normandy Chief of Police, who presented us with crime data over the past 3 years, and with a representative of the Weis Design Group, who would be the contractor for a street overhaul project and, if Bellerive Acres should choose to go forward with it, the gate project.

There have been about 10 crimes in the past 3 years, including a bullet in the hood of a car, a carjacking, and small burglaries. The gate would lie 50 feet off Natural Bridge, allowing up to 2.5 cars to line up behind the gate. The gate would open in response to a code entry, phone communication at the gate, or a card system.

The gate committee is still meeting and looking for alternative solutions—we would like to hear your thoughts. You may give your feedback to any committee member: Don Morice, Linda Paunicka, or Steve Jones.



 **PLEASE**  **PLEASE**  **PLEASE**  **PLEASE**  **PLEASE**  **PLEASE**  **PLEASE**

...SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS!

via EMAIL

To: Linda Paunicka, lindapaunicka@hotmail.com

via SNAIL MAIL

To: Linda Paunicka, 83 Bellerive Acres



Entrance Gate Survey

1. What is your address? _____
2. Are you in favor of Bellerive Acres installing an entrance gate? ☐ YES ☐ NO
3. (Optional) What are your reasons for your answer? _____

Be assured that your confidentiality will be respected.